

06/25/98

June 22, 1998

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Chairman William Kennard  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554



Ex Parte Filing in cases FO 91-171; FO 91-301

Dear Chairman Kennard,

It is my understanding that the National Association of Broadcasters has proposed a rule that would prevent overrides of broadcast and other channels to convey emergency messages.

We and the other cities in rural Wisconsin use this feature infrequently but we do use it in emergencies, as it is an important tool in communicating with our citizens.

We naturally broadcast severe storm and tornado warnings (not watches) but also advise the citizens about searches for missing children, gas line breaks, train derailments and other matters.

The City's broadcast TV comes from Green Bay some 50 miles to the east. Commonly, storm information is conveyed only for the larger metro areas and often when alerts from this area are broadcast, by the time they get over the air the storm is past.

Local searches for children, gas leaks, train derailments, and other emergencies are only mentioned as part of the local regional news and then only if "news worthy".

Please don't take this powerful tool of communication with our citizens away from us. It works so much better than blowing the warning siren and having people call City Hall to find out why it is sounding.

Sincerely,

James R. Villiesse  
City Clerk

Cc: Magaline Roman Salas  
Secretary F.C.C. (Rm 222)

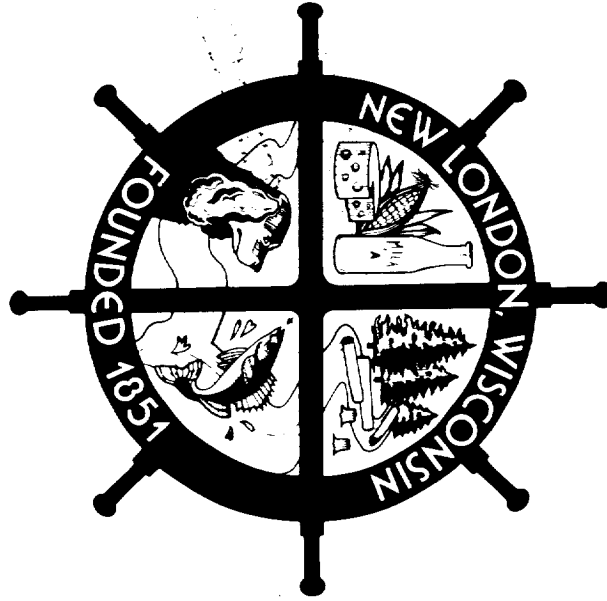
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